

# WASHINGTON EARNINGS AND MALE-FEMALE DIFFERENCES IN EARNINGS, 1989-1999

RESEARCH BRIEF NO. 26D

July 2004

## Earnings for Full-Time Washington State Workers by Sex: 1999

*Erica Gardner*

Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings for full-time workers were examined for Washington State residents aged 18 to 64 by sex.<sup>1,2</sup> Women still earn considerably less than men (see Table 1). Men's earnings range from \$17,000 at the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile to \$82,000 at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Women's earnings range from \$13,600 at the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile to \$57,000 at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

On average, women who work full-time only earn 69 percent of what male full-time workers earn. The gap in earnings by sex is the smallest at the bottom of the earnings distribution and the largest at the top of the earnings distribution. Women at the bottom ten percent of the earning distribution earn 80 percent of what men at the bottom ten percent of the earning distribution earn. Women at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile earn 70 percent of what the men at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile earn.

**Table 1 – Total Earnings by Sex for Full-Time Workers: 1999**

	Men	Women	Men-Women	Women's Full-Time Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Full-Time Earnings
Mean	\$49,929	\$34,331	\$15,598	69%
Earnings Percentile				
10th	\$17,000	\$13,600	\$3,400	80%
25th	\$26,000	\$20,000	\$6,000	77%
50th	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$11,000	73%
75th	\$57,000	\$40,600	\$16,400	71%
90th	\$82,000	\$57,000	\$25,000	70%

<sup>1</sup> Full-time work is defined as working 35 or more hours a week, 45 or more weeks a year, and having non-zero earnings. Part-time work is defined by non-zero earnings, and working less than 35 hours a week or less than 45 weeks a year. No earnings is simply defined as having zero earnings.

<sup>2</sup> Earnings include wage, salary, commission, bonus, and tip income from all jobs before deductions and/or net income from self-employment.